

certain stage of the growth of the plum; and when this did not occur at that particular stage the rot did not occur, hence the plums in some seasons escape the rot altogether.

Mr. Ross said that last season was very wet, and the fruit on only two of his plum trees was affected by the rot, and these were shaded by other trees; this year the rot spread from those affected last year to the trees adjacent, while the trees in another part of his garden wholly escaped; hence he thinks that the rot is infectious in some way, and that if once introduced, if no way of stopping it can be discovered, it will continue to spread until the fruit on all the trees in the vicinity is affected.

Mr. W. H. Boulton, of Toronto, said that the fruit on trees standing in the open ground in his garden was not affected, but on trees at the south side of a board fence the plums had rotted very considerably.

Mr. Arnold, of Paris, believed it to be an infectious fungus, which under favourable conditions grew upon the fruit, causing it to rot.

Mr. Saunders, of London, asked why some of the plums on his trees should be rotten, and others near not at all affected, if the cause of the rot be an infectious fungus?

Mr. Arnold replied that he had not observed such a state of things, but that the rot spread to the plums adjacent.

Mr. Mills, of Hamilton, did not think that the rot is caused by fungi; and that the reason why some plums on the tree escaped while others rot, is in the difference in the texture of the skin of different plums on the same tree, and that those having a skin whose texture resists the influences of moisture and heat escape the rot.

[NOTE BY THE SECRETARY.—Gentlemen in this discussion made use of the term “infectious fungi;” but they did not mean to be understood as using that term in the usual sense of the word, “infectious.” Fungi increase by means of minute spores, which are perfected under favourable conditions in a very short time, and in countless millions. These spores are very minute, float in the air, and are carried about by the lightest currents, and these falling on a surface suited to their growth, under conditions of moisture and heat favourable to their germination, soon develop into a perfect plant, again perfecting its spores, to be in turn carried by currents of air and deposited upon some spot where they may germinate and perfect themselves.]

DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

The Directors, in submitting their Annual Report, beg to say that, since the last Annual Meeting, there have been four General Meetings of the Association—one in October, 1869, at Brantford; the Winter Meeting in February, 1870, at Hamilton; another in July, 1870, at London; and the last in September, 1870, at St. Catherine's.

At all of these meetings some very fine fruit was exhibited, and the discussions were of a very practical and profitable character. These discussions have been preserved by the Secretary, and will be printed in our Report to the Commissioner of Agriculture.

The Directors thought it advisable to offer a reward for the destruction of the Plum Curculio, an insect that destroys our plums, by feeding upon them in the worm or larva state. The insects that were taken were sent to Mr. W. Saunders, Entomologist to the Association, who will submit a report thereon.

The Directors also distributed a vine of the Eumelan Grape to each member of the Association, on the condition that the member receiving it should report to the Secretary for five years the result of the trial. This grape was attracting considerable attention, as being early, hardy, healthy and productive. The Secretary will cause a summary of the returns he may receive to be printed with our report.

We have determined to distribute among the members next spring, upon the same conditions of reporting to the Secretary annually, for five years, the results of their experience, a young tree of the Beurre d'Anjou Pear, a variety that gives promise of being well adapted to our climate, and of superior quality. Those members who may chance to have this variety already, will be allowed to select another from any one of the following varieties, viz.:—Tyson, Howell or Jaminette.

It is believed that, in this way, the Association will be the means of disseminating widely through the Province fruits that promise to be valuable, and of testing their adaptedness to the different soils and exposures.